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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00
AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /077 W
----------000361 072345Z /21
R 071520Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6510

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2708

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PDEV PORG RH ZA
SUBJECT: BLACKOUT AND CURFEW EXTENDED

REF: LUSAKA 2678 AND 2680

1. THE BLACKOUT
AND CURFEW ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO END
SEPTEMBER 7 HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF
TIME. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA ANNOUNCED THE EXTENSION
BECAUSE OF THE "WAR SITUATION EXISTING IN THIS PART OF
AFRICA".

2. THE CONDITIONS OF THE CURFEW HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED
SLIGHTLY TO PERMIT LIGHTS TO BE USED AS LONG AS NO
LIGHT SHOWS OUTSIDE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECOMMENDED HEAVY
DRAPES TO PREVENT LIGHT FROM BEING SEEN.

3. THE BLACKOUT HAS ALREADY CAUSED ANY NUMBER OF PROBLEMS.
THE FIRST THREE NIGHTS THE GOVERNMENT CUT
THE ENTIRE POWER SUPPLY IN LUSAKA. AS A RESULT, THERE WERE
MANY EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWNS, INCLUDING WATER PUMPS AND
GENERATORS. LARGE AREAS OF THE CITY WERE WITHOUT WATER FOR
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TWO DAYS BEFORE THE DAMAGE COULD BE REPAIRED. THERE ARE REPORTS
OF DAMAGE TO MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AT NAKUMBALA SUGAR
ESTATES. ANOTHER REPORT INDICATES THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND
BABY CHICKS DIED BECAUSE THE INCUMBATORS WENT OFF WHEN THE
POWER WAS CUT. PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF COMPLAINTS, THE POWER
REMAINED ON DURING MOST OF THE FOURTH NIGHT OF THE BLACKOUT.

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4. THE CURFEW IS ALSO CAUSING SOME PROBLEMS. THERE WERE PUBLIC APPEALS FOR THE POLICE NOT TO BEAT CURFEW VIOLATORS BUT SIMPLY TO ARREST THEM AND TAKE THEM TO JAIL. A NUMBER OF REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED CONCERNING BEATINGS BEING METED OUT TO THOSE FOUND ON THE STREETS AFTER EIGHT PM. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THT MANY CURFEW VIOLATORS ARE SIMPLY ARRESTED WITHOUT VIOLENCE,PLACED IN JAIL OVER-NIGHT AND RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE.

5. COMMENT: THERE SEEMS TO BE A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF ZAMBIANS AND EXPATRIATES AS WELL TO ABIDE BY THE CURFEW AND BLACKOUT REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, THE REGULATIONS WERE EXPECTED TO BE IN EFFECT FOR ONLY FOUR NIGHTS AND NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN EXTENDED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD THE NOVELTY MAY SOON WEAR THIN AND COMPLIANCE MAY BECOME MORE OF A BURDEN. MEANWHILE, SPECULATION CONTINUES AS TO WHY THE BLACKOUT AND CURFEW HAVE BEEN IMPOSED AND WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF CURFEW AFTER 8 PM LOCA TIME, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT LIMIT NIACT TELEGRAMS TO ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL MESSAGES ONLY. LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CURFEW, SECURITY CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA02708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770324-0574
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770991/aaaacyvt.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Reference: 77 LUSAKA 2678
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1366977
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLACKOUT AND CURFEW EXTENDED
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, PINS, PORS, RH, ZA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93484a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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